

The Mississippi River Fishery St Cloud to Coon Rapids



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The Mississippi River Fishery St Cloud to Coon Rapids

- **Fish community** – 2007 Mississippi River Coordinated Sampling
- **Sport Fishery** – Channel catfish, Walleye and Smallmouth bass
- **Angler use and Economic Benefit** – 2007 Creel Survey



Fish Community

- Comprehensive fish survey of the Mississippi River from Itasca to Coon Rapids
- Similar reaches were determined based on geomorphology
- Fish were sampled by electrofishing using protocol developed by MPCA.



Fish Community

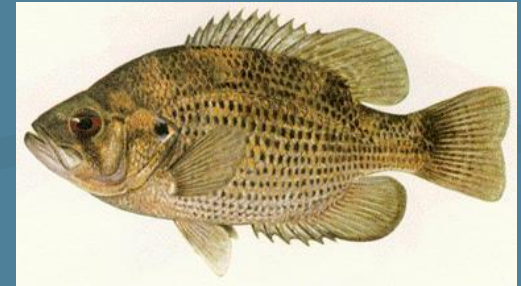
- 100 – 125 fish species found in the Upper Mississippi River
- 49 species are found in the St. Cloud – Coon Rapids section



Fish Community

Bowfin	Rock Bass	Spotfin Shiner
Brook Silverside	Smallmouth Bass	Northern Pike
Bigmouth Buffalo	White Crappie	Muskellunge
Greater Redhorse	Bigmouth Shiner	Burbot
Northern Hogsucker	Bluntnose Minnow	Black Bullhead
Shorthead Redhorse	Brassy Minnow	Channel Catfish
Silver Redhorse	Common Carp	Tadpole Madtom
White Sucker	Creek Chub	Yellow Bullhead
Black Crappie	Common Shiner	Blackside Darter
Bluegill	Fathead Minnow	Johnny Darter
Green Sunfish	Horneyhead Chub	Logperch
Largemouth Bass	Longnose Dace	Walleye
Orangespotted Sunfish	Mimic Shiner	Yellow Perch
Pumpkinseed	Sand Shiner	Iowa darter
American Eel	Central Stoneroller	Trout-perch
Central Mudminnow	Goldfish	Golden Shiner

Fish Community



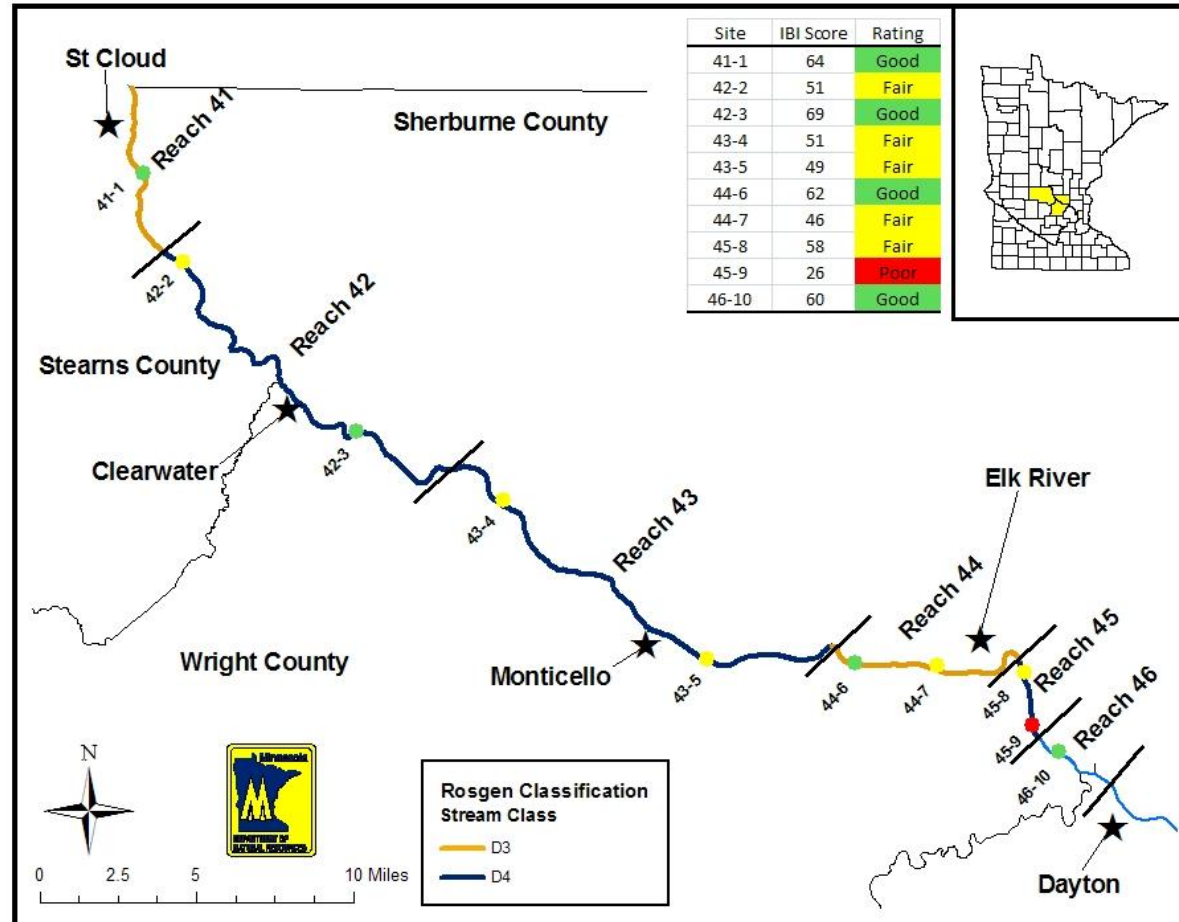
Intolerant Species

Fish Community

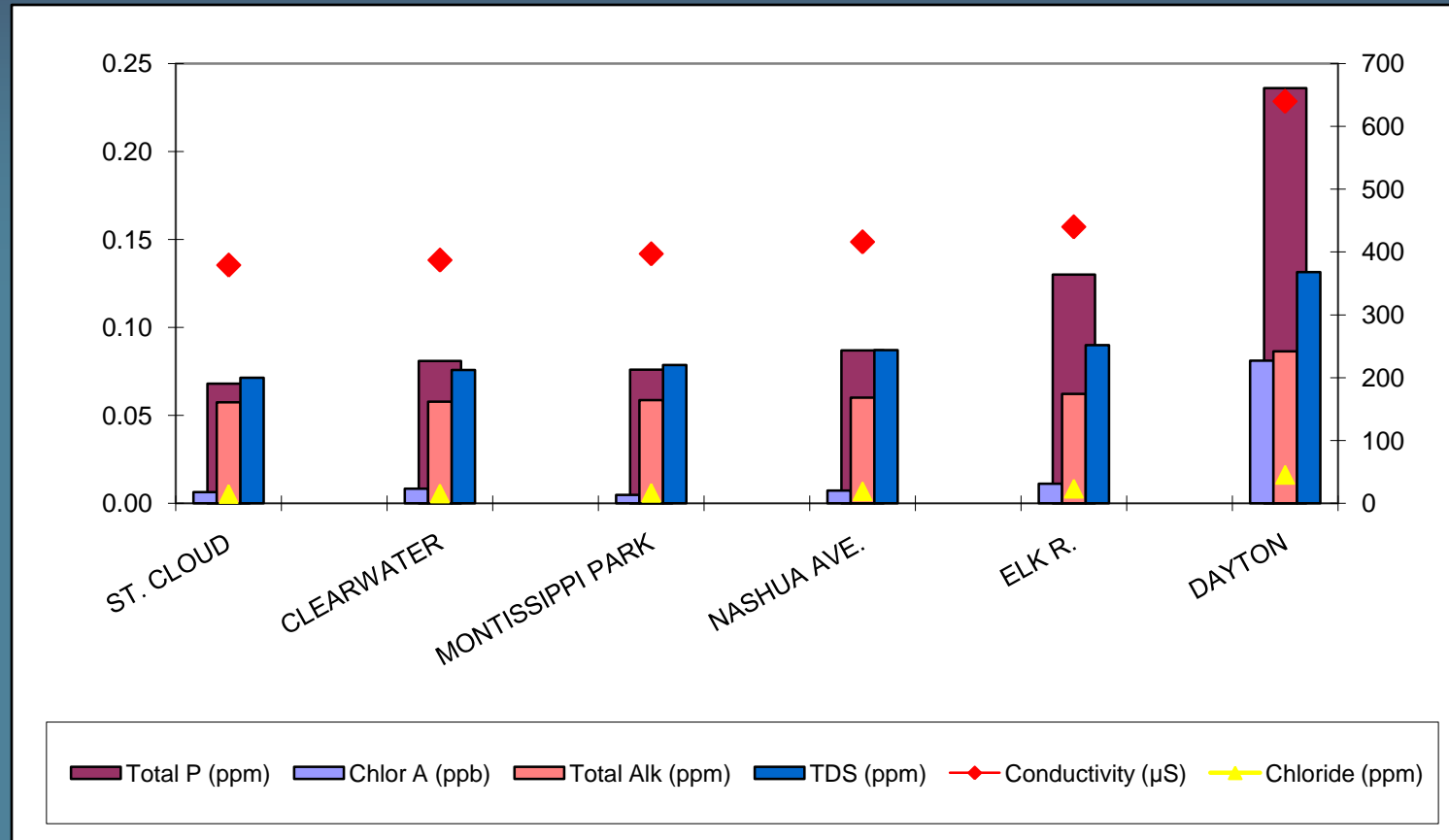


Tolerant Species

Fish Community



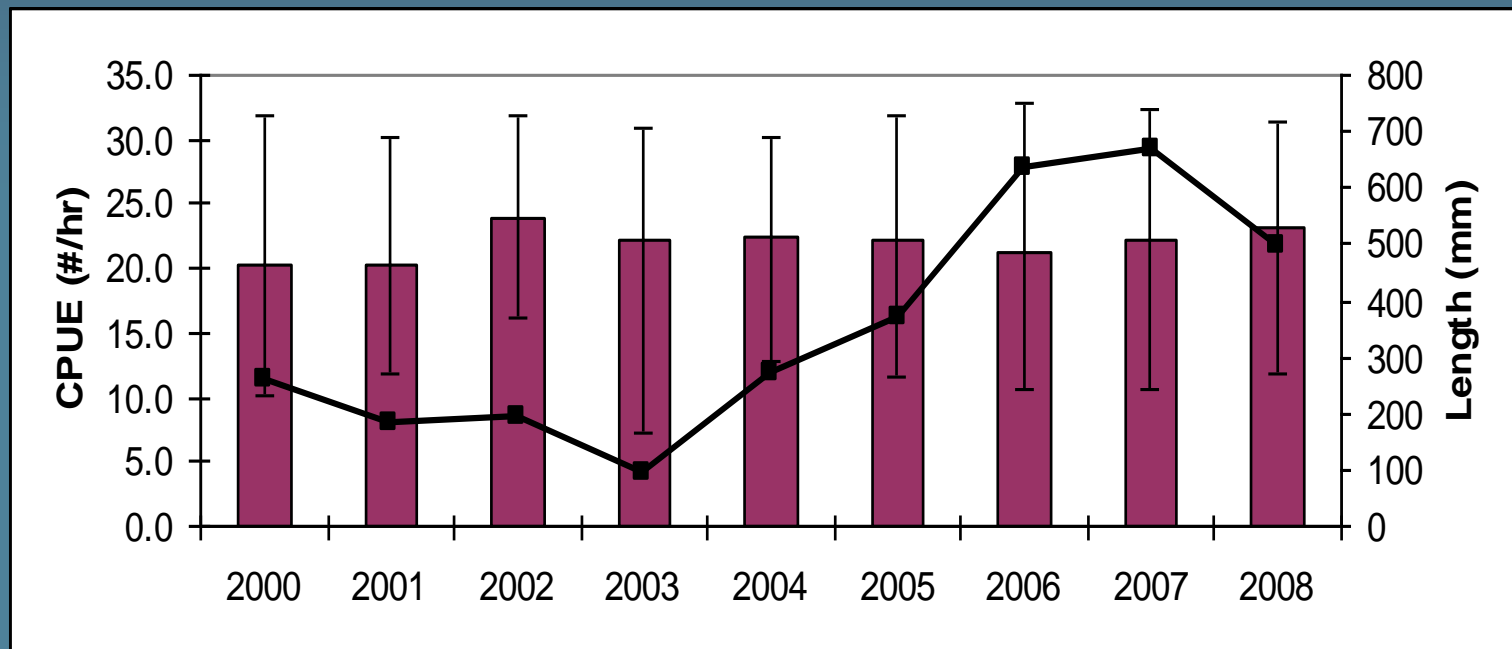
Fish Community



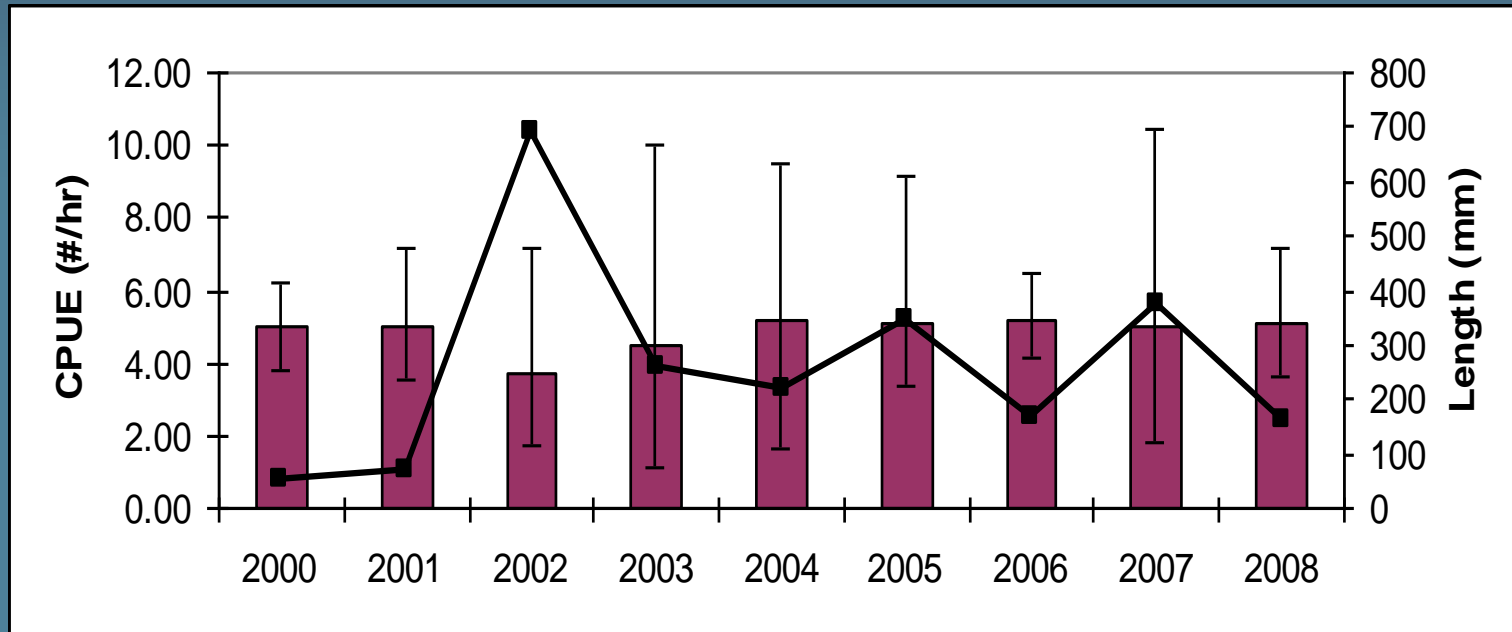
Sport Fishery



Sport Fishery - Channel catfish



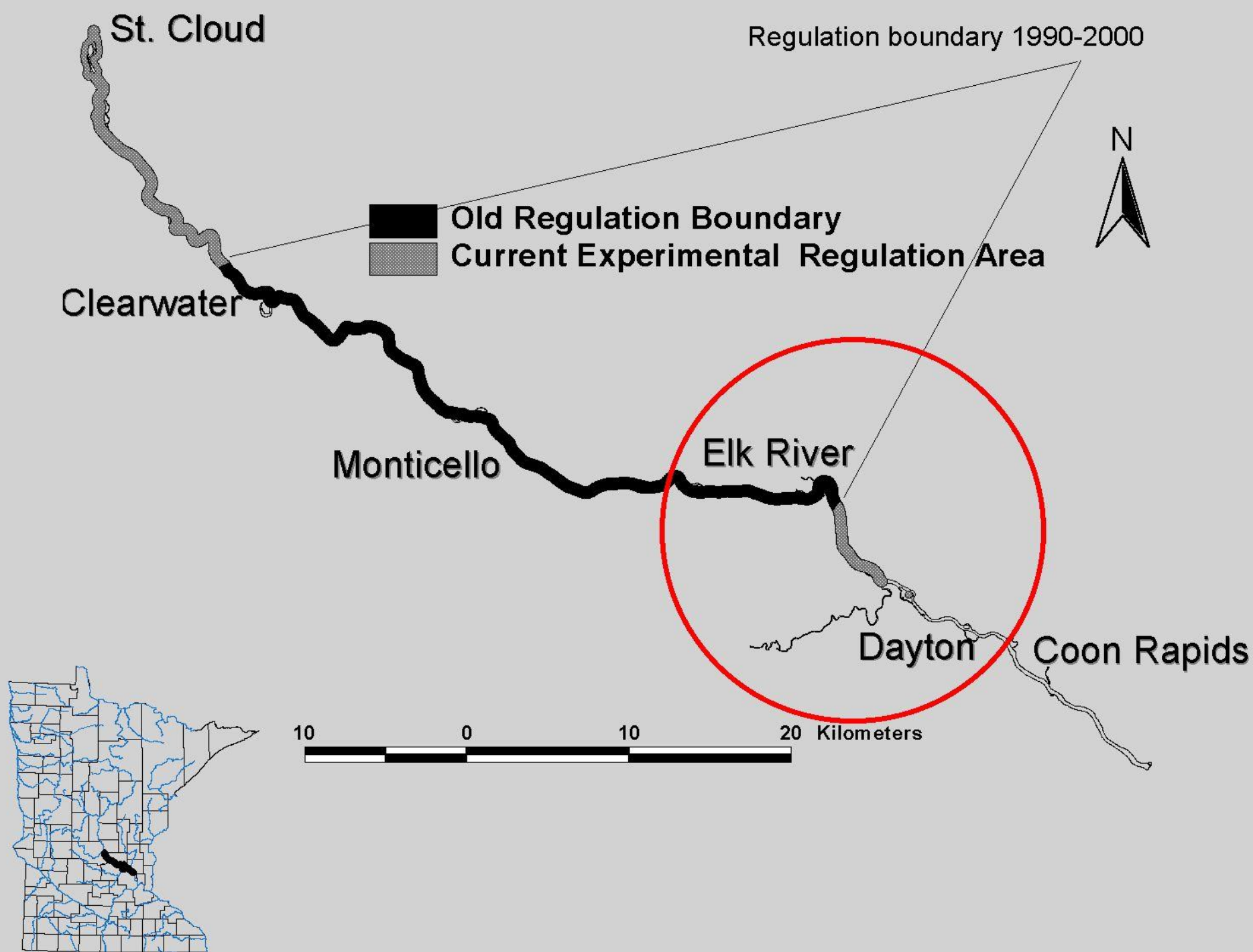
Sport Fishery - Walleye



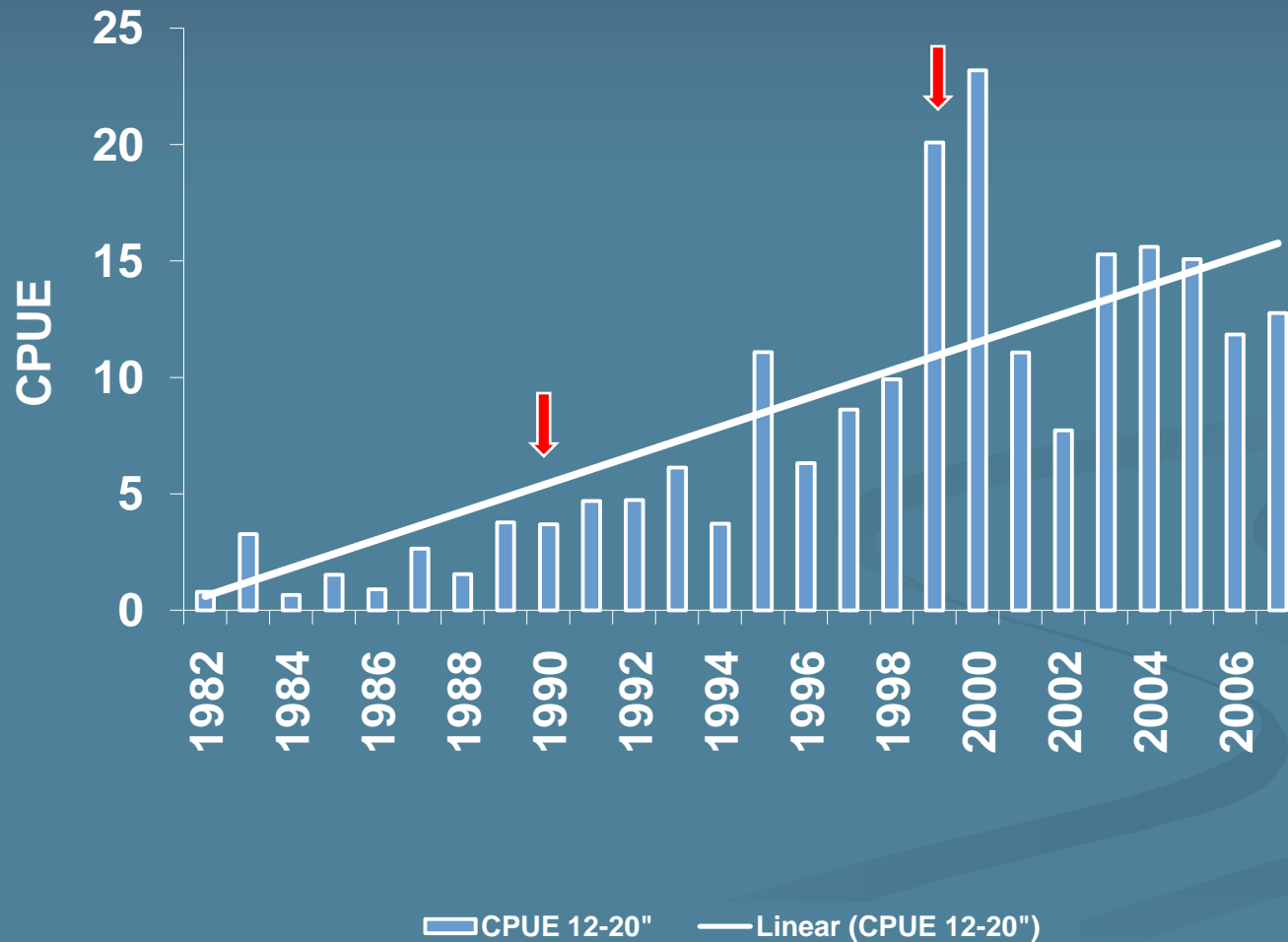
Sport Fishery - Smallmouth Bass

- 1970's & 80's anglers harvested smallmouth
- Prior to 1990 fishery of low quality
- 1990 12" -20" regulation put in effect from Elk River to Clearwater
- 1999 regulation area expanded from Dayton to the St. Cloud Dam
- Regulation made permanent in 2008 in this section



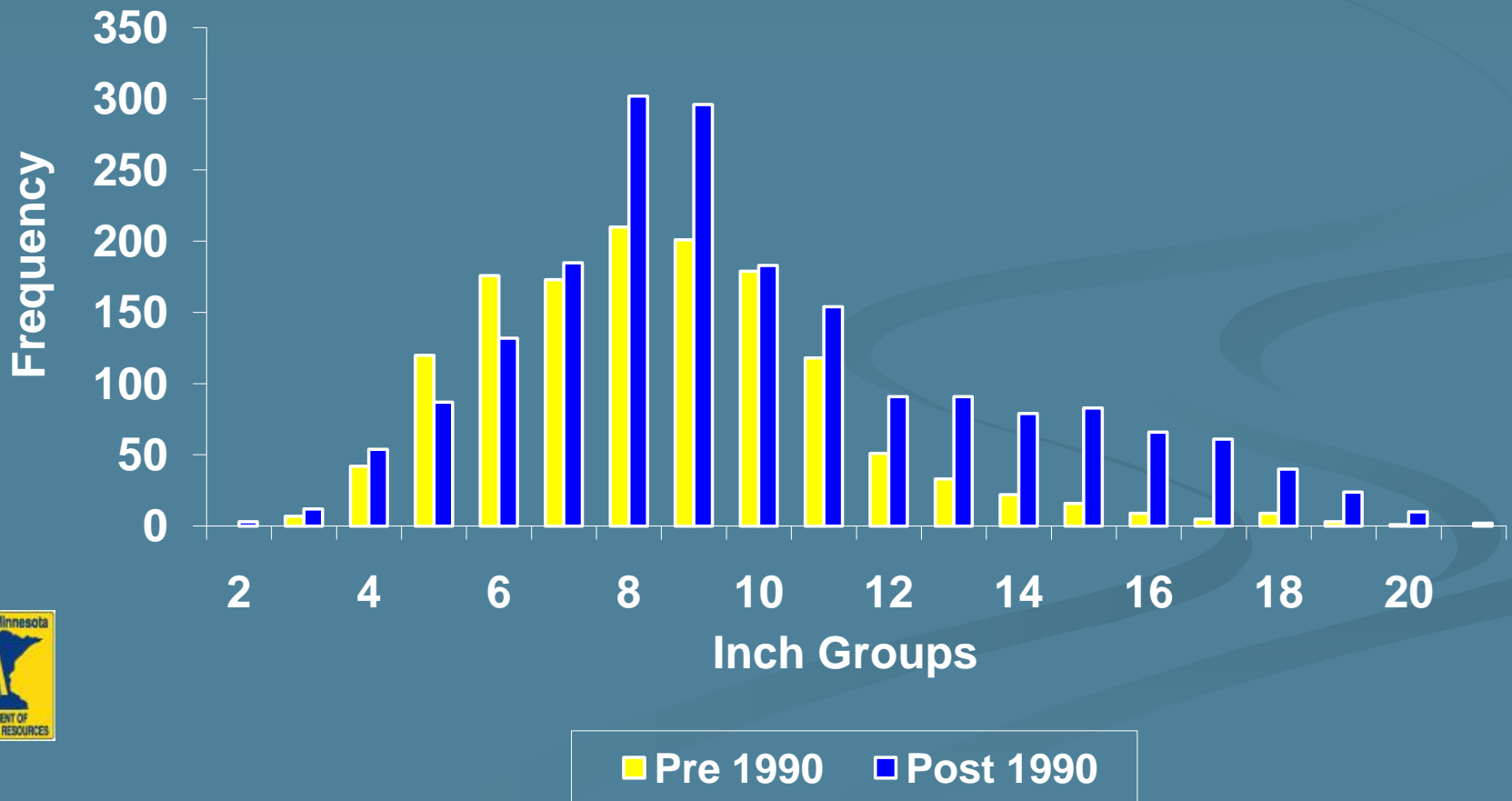


Sport Fishery - Smallmouth Bass



Sport Fishery - Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth Electrofishing length frequency since 1978
near Monticello MN



Angler Use

2007 Creel Survey

- 118,469 hrs angling May-September (24.1 hrs/acre)
- Species sought by anglers:
52% - SMB, 10% - WAE, 8% CCF
- Estimated number of fish caught:
57,809 SMB; 1,477 WAE; 7,631 CCF
- Anglers from the following states: CA, FL, IA, IL, IN, KS, MO, NC, NM, TX
- Estimated value of SMB fishery in this section of the river in 2007 was \$2.1 Million!!!



Summary

- Upper Mississippi River has a very diverse fish community (100 – 125 species, 49 in the St Cloud – Coon Rapids section)
- IBI scores in the “fair” to “good” range
- Fishable populations of WAE, CCF
- Recognized as a world class SMB fishery



Summary

- SMB anglers nationwide making the Mississippi River a fishing destination
- Average angler can enjoy success
- Fishing good when lake angling poor
- Economic value



Questions???



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuel supports boating access and Sport Fish Restoration.